

## **District and County Council Annual Report 2021**

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **COVID-19**

The key issue this year is, sadly, the same as we reported last year: Covid-19 and all that entails. We would have hoped to be in a changed world by now.

The District Council has been at the heart of providing support for our communities and businesses. All the funding that the government has been pumping into the local economy has been managed and distributed by the Council. To give some idea of the scope of this work since November, the latest round of grants, some £10,570,066, has been distributed to 4,447 local businesses. In addition £3,550,204 has been given out in Hardship Grants.

It is also the District Council that has been providing support and funding to our local community groups who have been doing such sterling work providing practical assistance to those who need it, and who continue to provide this invaluable service. A big thank you to them.

Let's hope that the world will be very different by next year's meeting and we can put this all behind us.

#### **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

In preparing its next Local Plan, the District Council has asked for landowners and potential housing developers to put forward parcels of land for consideration to be included as sites for housing in the future. A lot of land has been put forward in our area, none of these sites have been assessed by planners at the council yet, so we don't know if any have any planning merit. The planners are working through all of these sites and will produce a shorter list of sites in the autumn. This will then be consulted on publicly, so this is when everyone will get their say on what they think is and isn't acceptable.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **SHIRE HALL**

The County Council took a decision last year to leave their Cambridge city centre office, Shire Hall, for a new-build facility at Alconbury - the other end of the A14 from us. This caused some local consternation, not least from the staff, some of which aren't keen on the move. Whatever your views on it, the decision has been made and the move confirmed. The update this year is that Shire Hall has now been sold to another party and will be vacated by the County Council this year, in 2021.

#### **A1307**

The big news over the last few years, from the Highways department, is that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), which is formed of the local Cambridgeshire councils plus the university and a few other bodies, has been

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

implementing upgrades to the main road in our area, the A1307. There have been, many, local meetings over the years where people's views on various proposals have been put forward and, to the credit of the GCP, some of the views have been taken into account and implemented.

The upgrades that we have seen so far, from the GCP funding, have been:

- Upgrades to the traffic lights at LVC to make them 'smarter'.
- Installing a bus lane on the dual carriageway on the western approach to Linton
- Upgrading the foot/cycle path between Linton and Hildersham

The upgrades that we can expect to see next are:

- Average speed cameras installed between Haverhill and Linton
- A pedestrian crossing at the Hildersham junction
- A 'greenway' off-road non-motorised user path between Abington and Linton
- A new roundabout at the Bartlow Road junction at Linton
- Remodelling of the Dean Road junction, where a lot of fatalities occur

The detail of most of these changes are still to be finalised, so please do make your opinions heard. Either directly through the GCP local liaison meetings, or via your parish, district or county councillors.